

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2 is rejected. Claims 3-6 are allowed. Claim 2 is amended.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has again identified new prior art that has caused the Examiner to withdraw the indication of allowability of claim 2 and to reject the claim over the combination of previous and new prior art. On the basis of the present amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that there is a basis for allowance of all of the claims.

Claim Rejections -103

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa (6,086,211) in view of Kiyouki (JP 05-203948). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The present invention comprises a surface illuminant in the form of a combination of structures comprising (1) a light source, (2) a light guide plate being formed with convexes and concaves having different densities or sizes depending upon the distance from the light source, and (3) a reflection film coupled with a **light storage material incorporated in the reflective film**, as disclosed on page 10, lines 9 and 10 of the present specification.. As disclosed at pages 7 and 8, the reflective film is made of a resin, such as PET or polycarbonate, but this film is known in the admitted prior art, as illustrated in Fig. 6 and discussed at page 2.

The Examiner asserts that Ohkawa discloses the claimed invention except for the recitation of a **light storage material** incorporated into the reflective film. We cannot dispute the Examiner's analysis in this regard. However, we note that the structure illustrated in Fig.1 of Ohkawa and described at col. 5-6 includes a "reflection sheet 14" that is a "silver-deposited regular reflection member so as to exhibit a high reflectance with respect to illumination light." The reflection sheet 14 has no **light storage material**. The Examiner looks to Kiyouki for the missing teaching.

Kiyouki

Applicant notes that this reference was previously cited by the Examiner as “Iwai,” the inventor’s last name, and now is cited by the Inventor’s first name.

The Examiner cites the publication to Kiyouki for a teaching of a display comprising a planar light guide plate with a light source and “a reflecting ??? with a phosphor incorporated into it.” The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the **light storage** function of Kiyouki’s light reflecting plate into the reflective “film” in Ohkawa. As already noted, Ohkawa uses a reflection sheet, which is not a film.

According to the Abstract of Kiyouki, the structure identified by number 2 is a reflective plate that has incorporated therein a phosphor 4. Light incident from the light source 1 at one end of the plate 3 is reflected by the reflecting plate 2 and diffused by passing through the phosphor in the plate 2, such that it enters the light guide plate 3 and reaches the observer.

There are several bases for traversing this rejection.

First, Applicant respectfully submits that the phosphor 4 in Kiyouki is not a “**light storage**” material as claimed. Applicant’s own disclosure distinguishes between a light wavelength conversion function (provided by a phosphor 14, as disclosed at page 8) and a **light storage** function (provided by material 15, as disclosed at pages 9 and 10). Applicant submits that none of the cited art teaches a **light storage** function.

Second, Applicant submits that the silver-deposited reflector member of Ohkawa could not be modified by the reflector plate composition of Kiyouki, as there is no teaching or suggestion as to how a phosphor could be mixed with a silver layer. Applicants also submit that, even if combined, the result would not be a “film.”

Third, Applicant has amended claim 2 to emphasize the **light storage** function that permits emission of light for a period of time after light from said light source disappears. This feature is not found in the cited prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No. 09/937,664

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

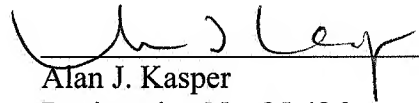
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Date: May 8, 2006